

# Lambda Letters Project

Vol. 12, No. 10 October, 2004

www.lambdaletters.org

LambdaLP@aol.com

(916) 728-1261

## Vote for Proposition 72

By Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist

*Of all forms of inequality, injustice in healthcare is the most shocking and inhumane.*

— Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Across California, millions of working people are paying more for healthcare—not just because of rising healthcare costs but because businesses are shifting a greater share of the burden to their workers.

The amount that California families pay for premiums has increased 70% in the last three years. Last year, however, employee premiums increased at twice the rate of business premiums. The result is that increasing numbers of Californians who work hard are unable to afford adequate medical care and prescriptions.

According to a University of California study, about 7.3 million Californians have no health insurance at all. More are losing their insurance every year as premium costs rise and become unaffordable. This is the emerging middle-class healthcare crisis in California.

If voters approve Proposition 72, it will keep the cost of private health insurance within the reach of working families, and extend coverage to 1.1 million workers and their children who are currently uninsured.

Prop. 72 asks California voters to affirm or repeal the Health Insurance Act (known as SB 2 until it was signed into law last October). It will limit what employees pay for healthcare by requiring large and medium-sized companies to provide health insurance to their employees and pay at least

*Continued on page 10*

## LLP Board Is Expanding


By Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist

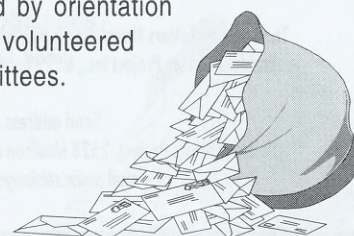
In our July newsletter I made an appeal to our members to consider joining our board of directors, or to join a committee of the board. Our situation had become critical. By the end of July we were down to just five board members. That was too few to carry on even the basic activities necessary to the survival of the Lambda Letters Project.

I am happy to report that the response has been wonderful. We expect to induct at least 11 new board members at our September 25 board meeting. (Because of newsletter deadlines, this article is being written prior to the meeting.) Several more people have agreed to serve on board committees without actually joining the board.

The new board members have a wide range of important skills and experience, including experience in fund raising, publicity, lobbying, and running nonprofit organizations. We expect that they will do much to enhance our ability to serve the community. We will introduce you to the new board members at a later date.

In closing, I would like to express a great debt of gratitude to Board Vice Chair Allan Robin. He worked tirelessly to recruit many of our new board members. He was also key to setting up board recruitment meetings for potential candidates, followed by orientation meetings for the people who volunteered to join our board or its committees.

Thank you, Allan! 



### In This Issue

Vote for Proposition 72 .....	1, 10
Women's Issue .....	3
LGBTI Issue .....	3
People of Color Issue .....	4
HIV/AIDS Issue .....	4
October Legislative Update .....	5-10
Domestic Partner Insurance Now the Law .....	10

### Lambda Letters Progress Report

#### Letters and Messages Collected

August, 2004	83,403 letters & e-mails
In all of 2004	341,711 letters & e-mails

#### Dollars Spent

August, 2004	\$3,136
In all of 2004	\$34,092

#### Can You Help?

Please support the very important work of the Lambda Letters Project with your contributions.



# Lambda Letters Project

## Our Mission

To promote the social, economic, and human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex individuals, couples, and families; people affected by HIV/AIDS; people of color; and women. We do this by urging elected officials to enact and support legislation that accomplishes this goal.

## Board of Directors

Chair: Lori Norman, Panorama City, [lori.norman@lambdaletters.org](mailto:lori.norman@lambdaletters.org)  
Vice-Chair: Allan Robin, Sacramento, [allan.robin@lambdaletters.org](mailto:allan.robin@lambdaletters.org)  
Treasurer: Michael Butler, Antelope, [michael.butler@lambdaletters.org](mailto:michael.butler@lambdaletters.org)  
Recorder: Anne Daniels, Sacramento, [anne.daniels@lambdaletters.org](mailto:anne.daniels@lambdaletters.org)  
Pat Washington, San Diego, [pat.washington@lambdaletters.org](mailto:pat.washington@lambdaletters.org)

## Staff

Chief Lobbyist, E-mail Alert Advocate: Boyce Hinman,  
(916) 728-1261, [boyce.hinman@lambdaletters.org](mailto:boyce.hinman@lambdaletters.org)  
Newsletter/Website Editor: stefan.gruenwedel@lambdaletters.org  
Legislative Analysts:  
• LGBTI Issues: [teri.ford@lambdaletters.org](mailto:teri.ford@lambdaletters.org)  
• HIV/AIDS Issues: [jamie.shauvin@lambdaletters.org](mailto:jamie.shauvin@lambdaletters.org)  
• People of Color Issues: [marty.martinez@lambdaletters.org](mailto:marty.martinez@lambdaletters.org)  
• Women's Issues: [kathleen.watanabe@lambdaletters.org](mailto:kathleen.watanabe@lambdaletters.org)  
General Coordinator: [aeire.stickney@lambdaletters.org](mailto:aeire.stickney@lambdaletters.org)  
Volunteer Coordinator: [lori.norman@lambdaletters.org](mailto:lori.norman@lambdaletters.org)

Publication of the name of any person or organization in articles or advertising in the Lambda Letters Project newsletter is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of such person or organization. The Lambda Letters Project does not sell or loan its mailing list to anyone. We give no information about who is, or is not, a member of the Project.

We do, occasionally, send mailings on behalf of other worthwhile organizations, but this is done by our own volunteers so that no other organization has the opportunity to copy our mailing lists.

The Lambda Letters Newsletter is published monthly, except in December, by Lambda Letters Project Inc., 6529 Cowboy Way, Citrus Heights, CA 95621.

Send address changes to  
Lambda Letters Project, 2528 Madison Avenue, San Diego, CA 92116-2922  
or e-mail [aeire.stickney@lambdaletters.org](mailto:aeire.stickney@lambdaletters.org).

## Contact Your Members of Congress!

You'd be amazed how easy it is. Call them toll-free at  
(800) 648-3516.

Ask the operator to transfer you to your legislator's office.

If the line is busy, try again later; you'll get through eventually.

Don't know who represents you in Congress?

Visit the Lambda Letters website:

[www.lambdaletters.org](http://www.lambdaletters.org)

Click on the Who Represents You? link in the left navigation bar to find out!

## Sponsors of Lambda Letters Project

Visionary (\$5,000 or more)

*Your name or business could be here*

Partner (\$2,500-\$4,999)

Boyce Hinman & Larry Beaty

Activist (\$1,000-\$2,499)

*CGNIE, Inc.; Anne Daniels; Imperial Court de San Diego Inc.;*

Gail Lang; Ray Leber; Jerome L. Murphy, MD & Andrew Tran; Allan E. Robin

Advocate (\$500-\$999)

*Elections Committee of the County of Orange; Kenneth Prag;*

Donald Ricart & Albert Bousquet; Kathryn W. Stephens & E. Bush;

Julia M. & Samuel Thoron

Sponsor (\$200-\$499)

Lucien L. Agosta, PhD; Mugurdich Balabanian, MD & Françoise Balabanian, PhD;

L. Wayne Bennett; Ed Buck; Robert & Rosalee Clarke; Robert B. Clarke, Jr.;

Carolyn E. & Dean O. Cliver; Mona D'Astarte & Peter D. Van Coutren;

Charles S. & Janet Dugan; Robin L. Greiner, Jr. & V. Ellis Vance; Richard Hand;

Susan Davis Hopkins; Jesse Joad & Ann Bonham; Thomas M. Kaiser; Barry C. Lynch;

Robert J. Mahoney; Dennis H. Mangers; Marilyn & Lee Mettler; Rick R. Mills;

Melissa A. & Robert Moore; Rusty Nichols; Deirdre O'Reilly; Merton F. Preston;

K. Layne Rainey & J. Michael Lee; John J. Ribauda, MD; Mary E. Rohwer;

Susan Ann Sternau & Nancy Welsh; John M. Tibbals

Supporter (\$100-\$199)

Angelo J. Aguanno & John Laslo; David L. Baker; Bruce Balderson & George Barber;

Ronald C. Bell; Hal & Eleanor Brown; Michael A. Butler; Alan Dale Campbell;

Sheila L. Cardno; R. John Carothers; David Chaille & Clarence J. Kuhn; Ellie Charlton;

Pat Coffey & Sandy Gaudur; Terrell A. Cole, Jr.; Dennis Allan Dudley; Lawrence Duplechan;

*Edgewater Resort; Alfred J. & Linda Espinoza; Paul G. Felice; Elwood Gerrits;*

Carol L. Ghilardi; Stefan Gruenwedel; Joseph Heller, PhD; Elaine Hoffman;

Lu J. Hoge & Terrie Bressette; Arthur L. Katz; Stanton Kernan & Greg Hansen;

Eleanore King; Mark A. Lager; Gordon L. Larson, MD; J. Michael Lee, MD & Ken Rainey;

Carla Leek & Gindi Matsumoto; Marian Martino; Molly McKay & Davina Kotulski;

Peter D. Merchant; Dayne M. Navarro; Lori Norman; Larry D. Norton & Lawrence

Marshall; M. Jane Pearce; Joan Potter; Meda Rebecca & Kathleen Carson; Jan Reynolds;

Scott E. Roy; Carl J. Seratt; Kimberly G. Silvers; *Sparks Publishing; Eunice C. & Young D.*

Stewart;

Jerald M. Stinson; Ronald J. Taylor; *Uptown Gay and Lesbian Alliance, Inc.;*

Melodie A. Whitley; Edward P. & Merida Wilson; Scott Wing; Katherine J. Wolfe;

Kenneth D. Wolverton & Waleed Doany

## Advertising Rates (per Issue)

Business-card sized ads (3½"×2") \$10, quarter-page ads \$30, third-page ads \$33, half-page ads \$45, full-page ads \$75, full back-page ad \$100. Deadline for payment and camera-ready copy, along with your name and phone number, is the 25th of each month.

## Discrimination Complaints

Have you experienced employment discrimination because of your actual or perceived sexual orientation or because of your age (40 and over), ancestry, color, creed, disability, marital status, medical condition, national origin,

race, religion, or sex? Have you been denied family and medical care leave or pregnancy disability leave?

If so, you may register a complaint with the Department of Fair Employment and Housing. In cases of employment discrimination, call the department at

(800) 884-1684. In cases of housing discrimination, call (800) 233-3212.

The person answering the phone will schedule an appointment for you at the Department of Fair Employment and Housing Office which is closest to your home or place of employment.



## Save the Commission on the Status of Women

By Kathleen Watanabe, LLP Analyst

As part of Governor Schwarzenegger's plan to restructure, reorganize, and reform state government, the California Commission on the Status of Women is slated to be eliminated. The California Performance Review (CPR) team was created by the governor to examine and make recommendations. The CPR report makes 1,200 recommendations to the governor. One of them is to abolish the Commission. The report also proposes combining the current functions of the Commission with other abolished commissions, such as the Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs, to form a new Office of Community Affairs under the direct jurisdiction of the governor. The CPR's rationale is that it would make the commissions more accountable.

This plan is shortsighted and misguided. The Commission on the Status of Women is an independent nonpartisan state agency that has served the needs of women for the past 38 years. Its mission is to promote equality and justice for all women and girls. It accomplishes this by advocating on their behalf with the governor, the Legislature, and other policymakers. It also educates the public in many areas of concern to California's women and their families: civil rights, sex equity in education, sexual harassment, domestic violence and sexual assault, access to healthcare, reproductive freedom, child and other dependent care, pay inequities and comparable worth, legal rights of women in marriage and divorce, social security and pensions, and discrimination in employment, insurance, and credit.

One of the Commission's primary functions is to inform the Legislature and the governor on pending legislation impacting California's women and girls. The Commission was one of the cosponsors of SB 1661, the bill signed into law by Governor Davis that made California the first state in the nation to enact a paid family leave policy for employees who take time off to care for a new child or seriously ill family member. It is not likely that the Commission could advocate so independently if it became a department under the governor.

The Commission would lose its independence because the currently independent commissioners would become political appointees of the governor and would serve at his pleasure. The Commission would also lose its nonpartisan nature. Furthermore, conservatives are diametrically opposed to most of the goals of the current Commission and would halt all efforts to advance the welfare of women.

With conservatives now controlling the federal government, the rights and well-being of all women are at risk. That


## Support a Real Employment Non-Discrimination Act

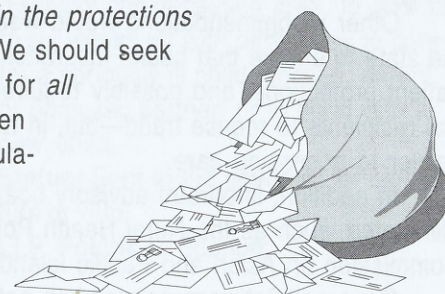
By Teri Ford, Legislative Analyst

Since the 1970s, various members of Congress have sought to enact a federal bill that would end employer discrimination against the gay, lesbian, and bisexual communities. The bills that were introduced came to be known as ENDA or the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.


Today the legacy continues with HR 3285. Congressman Christopher Shays (R-CT) introduced this bill last year in the House of Representatives. It was cosponsored by many other members of the House, including Congressman Barney Frank (D-MA). This bill would provide a federal ban on employment discrimination, which individual states could not overrule. Retaliation by the employer would be illegal. It would not set quotas for the hiring of lesbians, gays, or bisexuals, and there would be no preferential treatment to individuals on the basis of sexual orientation. Everyone would be considered equally...or would they be?

The people responsible for HR 3285 seek to end workplace discrimination against the LGB community. However, transgender people are left out. How can any law truly end discrimination if not everyone is represented? HR 3825 will die when Congress ends its session this fall. Probably a new version of the bill will be introduced next year when the new Congress takes office this fall.

Please write to your member of the House of Representatives and urge him or her to cosponsor the new version of the bill when it is introduced, *but only if transgender people are included in the protections provided by the bill.* We should seek to end discrimination for *all* people, not just chosen segments of the population. 



is why the Commission on the Status of Women is needed now more than ever.

Please contact Governor Schwarzenegger immediately and tell him that eliminating the California Commission on the Status of Women is penny-wise and pound-foolish. The Commission has served the needs of women and girls for 38 years and has helped California become one the leading states in the nation in providing equality and opportunity for all women. 



## California Performance Review Recommendations Could Harm Communities

*By Marty Martinez, LLP Analyst*

On August 3, the California Performance Review (CPR) Commission sent Governor Schwarzenegger a wide-ranging series of recommendations to improve government efficiency and restructure state government. Many of the recommendations are broad goals rather than specific policy changes, and the full impact of the recommendations will be known only when more details are developed.

Although improving efficiency is a laudable goal, many of these recommendations could potentially be very damaging to communities of color.

The recommendations include changing eligibility criteria for public programs, aligning Medi-Cal, CalWorks, and food stamps programs to make applying for them easier. However, it is unclear whether "aligning" them would be accomplished by eliminating some people from any of these three programs.

The CPR also calls for tracking HIV cases using names instead of the unique identifier program that AIDS advocates worked hard to develop as a way of increasing the confidentiality of HIV testing.

CPR's recommendations would also eliminate the counties' responsibility to care for the poor, turning that function over to the state without express guarantees that the safety net will remain intact.

Other recommendations would weaken the ability of the state to ensure that health insurance plans comply with patient protections, and possibly require fingerprinting Medi-Cal recipients to reduce fraud—but, in turn, creating a huge barrier to accessing care.

In addition, important advisory boards would be eliminated, such as the Rural Health Policy Council and the Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs.

Governor Schwarzenegger has not publicly decided which of these recommendations he will support. Some of them could be implemented by executive order, others by the Legislature, and some could be placed on the ballot in the form of a proposition.

Therefore, the governor needs to hear from the community about our concerns on the California Performance Review. ☐

## Support the Early Treatment for HIV Act

*By Jamie E. Chauvin, Legislative Analyst*

The Early Treatment for HIV Act (ETHA), also known as Senate Bill 847, authored by Senators Gordon Smith (R-Oregon) and Hillary Clinton (D-New York), represents a breakthrough in assuring early access to care for thousands of low-income people living with HIV.

Current HIV treatments are successfully delaying the progression from HIV infection to AIDS, improving the health and quality of life for many people living with the disease. However, without access to early intervention healthcare and treatment, these advances remain out of reach for many non-disabled, low-income people with HIV.

This month please write to President George W. Bush asking him to support ETHA, which allows states to extend Medicaid coverage to pre-disabled people living with HIV. (Medicaid is called Medi-Cal in California).

Although effective drug treatments have improved both the health and quality of life for thousands of people, many uninsured and underinsured Americans still do not have access to these lifesaving medications because HIV-positive individuals generally do not meet Medicaid requirements until they are disabled by full-blown AIDS.

ETHA will allow low-income individuals living with HIV to qualify for Medicaid coverage earlier in the course of their disease.

"Early treatment for HIV infection saves lives and reduces healthcare costs as progression from HIV to full-blown AIDS is prevented or delayed," said Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco).

"Forcing people to wait for healthcare until their immune system is compromised by AIDS is indefensible. The law must be changed to eliminate barriers to early drug therapy," she said.

Additionally, a recent report by PricewaterhouseCoopers found that if ETHA is passed and implemented by the states, the death rate of people living with HIV on Medicaid would be cut in half over a ten-year period.

It also revealed that over that same period, ETHA would save money in the Medicaid program. ETHA is a humane and cost-effective bill and we hope you will help it become law.

Please write to President Bush asking him to support the Early Treatment for HIV Act. ☐



# October Legislative Update

The Legislature closed for the year on August 28. Governor Schwarzenegger had until September 30 to decide whether to sign or veto each of the bills sent to him. Any bills not signed or vetoed by the governor by September 30 became law without his signature.

The following list shows the status of bills as of mid-September, the deadline for this newsletter. The actual and final outcome of each bill listed here will appear in the November newsletter. We will also post that information on our Web site in October. Go to [www.lambdaletters.org](http://www.lambdaletters.org) and click the Legislative Update link on the left side of the home page.

Here is the list of bills we are covering.

## HIV/AIDS Issues

**AB 1367** (Darrell Steinberg, D-Sacramento; John Laird, D-Santa Cruz)  
**Purpose:** To create an HIV/AIDS pharmacy pilot program to help protect major state HIV/AIDS clinics with in-house pharmacies—such as the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center, CARES-Sacramento, and the AIDS Healthcare Foundation—from the state budget's new Medi-Cal pharmacy reimbursement realignment.  
**Status:** Sent to the governor for signature or veto.  
**LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 1925** (Ray Haynes, R-Temecula)  
**Purpose:** To require advance notice to parents, under certain circumstances, of sex or AIDS education to be given in a school and to notify parents that they can remove their children from this education by submitting a written request.  
**Status:** Signed by the governor.  
**LLP Position:** Oppose.

**AB 1957** (Dario Frommer, D-Glendale)  
**Purpose:** To require the state to establish a Web site to display price comparisons of prescription drugs, including prices charged by licensed pharmacies in the state and Canadian pharmacies that provide mail-order service to the US that meet certification requirements established under the bill. Also requires the state to consider buying drugs from Canada.  
**Status:** Sent to the governor for signature or veto.  
**LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 2871** (Patty Berg, D-Santa Rosa)  
**Purpose:** To make it easier for cities and counties to establish clean-needle and syringe exchange programs.  
**Status:** Sent to the governor for signature or veto.  
**LLP Position:** Support.

**SB 1149** (Deborah Ortiz, D-Sacramento)  
**Purpose:** To require the state to develop and disseminate information identifying pharmacies in Canada that meet recognized standards for the safe dispensing of dangerous drugs (prescriptions) to California residents. Listed pharmacies must register with the state and pay a \$1,500 fee. State also must publicize foreign suppliers that do not meet standards. Information should be posted on the Internet.  
**Status:** Sent to the governor for signature or veto.  
**LLP Position:** Support.

**SB 1159** (John Vasconcellos, D-San Jose)  
**Purpose:** To authorize a licensed pharmacist to sell hypodermic needles or syringes to a person without a prescription under specified conditions, and to authorize a person to possess up to 10 hypodermic needles or syringes if acquired through an authorized source. This bill comes into force only if SB 1362 is also passed and signed by the governor.  
**Status:** Sent to the governor for signature or veto.  
**LLP Position:** Support. This would

facilitate authorized clean-needle exchange programs around the state.

**SB 1362** (Liz Figueroa, D-Fremont)  
**Purpose:** To require local governments to include in their waste management plans a procedure for the safe collection, treatment, and disposal of sharps, including hypodermic needles and syringes.  
**Status:** Approved by the Legislature. Signed by the governor.  
**LLP Position:** Support.

**SB 1494** (John Vasconcellos, D-San Jose)  
**Purpose:** To provide that a qualified person with a medical marijuana identification card, or any designated primary caregiver, may possess any amount of marijuana consistent with the medical needs of that qualified person with an identification card.  
**Status:** Approved by the Legislature. Vetoed by the governor.  
**LLP Position:** Support.

## Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/ Transgender/Intersex Issues

**AB 1918** (Cindy Montanez, D-Mission Hills)  
**Purpose:** To allow a school employee, in a school district that is not subject to disability compensation laws, to take up to six weeks off with partial pay to care for a seriously ill child, spouse, parent, or domestic partner, or to bond with a new child.  
**Status:** Sent to the governor for signature or veto.  
**LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 2208** (Christine Kehoe, D-San Diego)  
**Purpose:** To require that domestic partners be treated equally to married couples by insurance companies with regard to benefits under all kinds of insurance policies regulated by the Department of Insurance.  
**Status:** Signed by the governor.  
**LLP Position:** Support.

*Continued on page 6*



## Legislative Update

Continued from page 5

**AB 2889** (John Laird, D-Santa Cruz)

**Purpose:** To make employers responsible for the acts of non-employees with respect to all forms of harassment (including harassment based on the LGBTI or HIV status of employees) in the workplace where the employer or its agents or supervisors knew, or should have known, of the conduct and failed to take immediate and appropriate corrective action.

**Status:** Failed in the Senate Appropriations Committee. Bill is dead.

**LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 2900** (John Laird, D-Santa Cruz)

**Purpose:** To amend nondiscrimination language in California's labor and employment codes to make the language uniform. The nondiscrimination language found in the Fair Employment and Housing Act will be used as the model. Sexual orientation, gender identity, and language protecting women and other minorities will be amended into many of these government codes.

**Status:** Sent to the governor for signature or veto.

**LLP Position:** Support.

**AJR 60** (Sally Lieber, D-San Jose)

**Purpose:** To approve an Assembly Joint Resolution urging Congress and President Bush to support the Permanent Partners Immigration Act. This act, now being considered in Congress, would allow US citizens to obtain permanent legal US residency for their domestic partners who are citizens of another country.

**Status:** Approved. Sent to Congress.

**LLP Position:** Support. Currently straight couples can obtain the same result by marriage.

**AJR 67** (Dennis Mountjoy, R-Monrovia)

**Purpose:** To urge Congress to pass a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage in the United States.

**Status:** Referred to the Assembly Judiciary Committee. Hearing cancelled at the author's request. The bill is dead.

**LLP Position:** Oppose.

**AJR 85** (Mark Leno, D-San Francisco)

**Purpose:** To urge Congress *not* to pass a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage in the United States.

**Status:** Approved. Sent to Congress.

**LLP Position:** Support.

**SB 1193** (Nell Soto, D-Ontario)

**Purpose:** To require the state to pay a \$10,000 death benefit to the surviving spouse, or beneficiary designated by the service member, of any member of the California National Guard, State Military Reserve, or Naval Militia who dies or is killed in the performance of state military duty.

**Status:** Sent to the governor for signature or veto.

**LLP Position:** Support.

**SB 1234** (Sheila Kuehl, D-Los Angeles)

**Purpose:** To enact a uniform definition of "hate crime" and direct all state and local agencies to use it exclusively; encourage all law-enforcement agencies to adopt a formal hate-crime protocol; direct law-enforcement agencies to deliver expanded hate crimes training to their officers; and increase penalties for hate crimes.

**Status:** Sent to the governor for signature or veto. **LLP Position:** Support.

## People of Color Issues

**AB 292** (Leland Yee, D-San Francisco)

**Purpose:** To provide that a state or local governmental agency, or a public or private agency supported by state funding, shall not use any child, or permit any child to be used, as a translator or interpreter in any matter involving the business or function of that agency, except as specified. This would require each agency that receives state funding to have available for inspection an established procedure for providing competent translation services.

**Status:** Died in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

**LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 858** (Jackie Goldberg, D-Los Angeles)

**Purpose:** To prohibit public schools from using the word "Redskins" as a school or athletic team name, mascot, or nickname.

S T U D I O



crystal weber • studio.c@sbcglobal.net  
tel 916.448.6003 • fax 916.446.6474  
3181 d street • sacramento, ca 95816

## EDGEWATER RESORT

Sandra West & Lora Tell, Owners

Guaranteed the BEST FULL SERVICE Campground  
On the 100 Mile Shoreline of CLEAR LAKE  
RV ~ CAMPING ~ CABINS

6420 Soda Bay Rd., Kelseyville, CA 95451

WEB SITE: [www.edgewaterresort.net](http://www.edgewaterresort.net)  
E-MAIL: [business@edgewaterresort.net](mailto:business@edgewaterresort.net)

Phone 707-279-0208  
Fax 707-279-0138





**Status:** Sent to the governor for signature or veto.  
**LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 1796** (Mark Leno, D-San Francisco)

**Purpose:** To provide that a convicted drug felon shall be eligible for aid under the Food Stamp Program. Those convicted of using drugs would be helped by this bill. Drug dealers would be excluded from its benefits.

**Status:** Sent to the governor for signature or veto.

**LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 1815** (Wilma Chan, D-Oakland)

**Purpose:** To raise the income tax rate and the alternate minimum income tax rate on California's wealthiest citizens.

**Status:** The bill is dead.

**LLP Position:** Support. This would reduce the pressure to make cuts to vital HIV/AIDS programs and other health and social service programs.

**AB 1895** (Joe Nation, D-San Rafael)

**Purpose:** To require that an attorney who specializes in immigration law, or a certified immigration specialist, be provided to a dependent child of the court who is not a citizen of the US and when the court has decided parental reunification is not an option. The bill would exclude counties that already have similar programs in place.

**Status:** Sent to the governor for signature or veto.

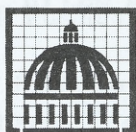
**LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 1963** (Simon Salinas, D-Salinas)

**Purpose:** To encourage the use of *promotores de salud* and community health workers to provide better health outcomes for rural and underserved communities, particularly agricultural workers, and seek to incorporate the use of *promotores de salud* and community health workers in the full range of state-funded health programs. (*Promotores de salud* are programs that utilize trained community members to provide linguistically and culturally appropriate

*Continued on page 8*

CAPITAL GRAPHICS INC.



Stuart Eldridge

2920 36<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sacramento, California 95817  
[www.capgraph.com](http://www.capgraph.com)

Tel: (916) 455-2777  
Fax: (916) 455-4111  
Toll Free: (877) 453-6003  
[SEldridge@capgraph.com](mailto:SEldridge@capgraph.com)

# Don't Let THEM Change OUR Constitution!

The Elections Committee of the County of Orange (ECCO) is a **combined Federal and State Political Action Committee** that champions issues important to the GLBT community.

Join us as we financially assist federal and state representatives, candidates, and organizations from Orange County and Long Beach that will defend the U.S. Constitution from the Federal Marriage Amendment.

## ECCO supports the Lambda Letters Project

ECCO is a non-partisan Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, HIV/AIDS, and Women's Political Action Committee.

[www.eccopac.org](http://www.eccopac.org)





## Legislative Update

*Continued from page 7*

outreach, education, and access to services.)

**Status:** Sent to the governor for signature or veto.

**LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 2387** (Marco Firebaugh, D-South Gate)

**Purpose:** To authorize the University of California and the California State University to consider culture, race, ethnicity, gender national origin, geographic origin, and household income, along with other relevant factors, in undergraduate and graduate admissions under certain limited conditions. These may not be the deciding factors in admissions. Also authorizes the schools to gather certain demographic data on students.

**Status:** Sent to the governor for signature or veto.

**LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 2408** (Leland Yee, D-San Francisco)

**Purpose:** To strengthen and clarify the law requiring state agencies to employ sufficient numbers of bilingual staff to meet the needs of the non-English-speaking communities they serve.

**Status:** Vetoed by the governor.

**LLP Position:** Support

**AB 2428** (Judy Chu, D-Monterey Park)

**Purpose:** To protect the victims of hate crimes and their families by ensuring, absent compelling reasons that dictate otherwise, that a restraining order prohibiting further contact with the victim or victim's family be placed on the perpetrator when he or she is released from custody.

**Status:** Sent to the governor for signature or veto.

**LLP Position:** Support.

**SB 921** (Sheila Kuehl, D-Los Angeles)

**Purpose:** To establish a single-payer, universal healthcare delivery system in California. Under this system the state would pay all the medical bills and every resident of California would have health insurance.

**Status:** Approved by the Assembly Health Committee. Author has decided to drop the bill until next year.

**LLP Position:** Support.

**SB 1144** (John Burton, D-San Francisco)

**Purpose:** To allow the state to buy drugs from Canadian manufacturers, among others. Would require the state to seek federal permission to buy drugs in Canada.

**Status:** Sent to the governor for signature or veto.

**LLP Position:** Support.

NEWSMAGAZINE

ENTERTAINMENT

MARKETING

PUBLISHING

OUTFLICKS

SPECIAL EVENTS

ADVERTISING

WEB DEVELOPMENT

NEWSMAGAZINE

ENTERTAINMENT

MARKETING

PUBLISHING

OUTFLICKS

SPECIAL EVENTS

ADVERTISING

WEB DEVELOPMENT

# The Word is out. Outword

1116 24th Street • Sacramento, CA 95816

584 Castro Street • San Francisco, CA 94114

916.329.9280 fon • 916.498.8445 fax

editor@outwordmagazine.com

www.outwordmagazine.com



**SB 1160** (Gilbert Cedillo, D-Los Angeles)

**Purpose:** To allow undocumented immigrants, under certain circumstances, to obtain driver's licenses.

**Status:** The intent of this bill was amended into AB 2895, which was sent to the governor for signature or veto.

**LLP Position:** Neutral.

**SB 1170** (Deborah Ortiz, D-Sacramento)

**Purpose:** To require the state to establish (on or before January 1, 2005) a list of maximum allowable costs that drug providers could charge the state for medicines used in the Medi-Cal program.

**Status:** The bill is dead.

**LLP Position:** Support. The list would keep costs down and reduce pressure to limit enrollment in Medi-Cal.

**SB 1333** (Don Perata, D-Oakland)

**Purpose:** To authorize the state to reimburse a pharmacy that provides to a Medi-Cal beneficiary, or an AIDS Drug Assistance (ADAP) patient, a prescription drug that was purchased from a Canadian pharmacy that is licensed with the state of California.

**Status:** Sent to the governor for signature or veto.

**LLP Position:** Support.

**SB 1499** (Kevin Murray, D-Culver City)

**Purpose:** To prohibit an employer from charging a fee for cashing an employee's payroll check, transporting an employee to a job site, or renting an employee the tools necessary to perform the duties of the employment.

**Status:** Sent to the governor for signature or veto.

**LLP Position:** Support.

**SB 1563** (Martha Escutia, D-Norwalk)

**Purpose:** To deem that a drug manufacturer entering into a contract with state and local governments must agree to offer certain clinics that serve poor people prices that do not exceed

the discounted prices specified under federal law.

**Status:** Sent to the governor for signature or veto.

**LLP Position:** Support.

**SJR 21** (Joe Dunn, D-Garden Grove)

**Purpose:** To ask Congress to establish a fact-finding commission to determine if the federal government mistreated American citizens and permanent resident aliens of Mexican descent who were deported or coerced to emigrate during the 1930s and to recommend appropriate remedies.

**Status:** The bill is dead.

**LLP Position:** Support.

### *Women's Issues*

**AB 1825** (Sarah Reyes, D-Fresno)

**Purpose:** To require larger employers to train supervisors on the subject of remedies for, and laws against, sexual harassment in the workplace.

**Status:** Sent to the governor for signature or veto. **LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 1946** (Darrell Steinberg, D-Sacramento)

**Purpose:** To streamline and improve a process already available under California law, which allows compassionate release from jail for certain prisoners who are ill and have less than six months to live.

**Status:** Sent to the governor for signature or veto.

**LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 2010** (Loni Hancock, D-Berkeley)

**Purpose:** To allow Alameda and Solano Counties to increase fees, up to a maximum increase of \$2, for certified copies of marriage certificates, birth certificates, fetal death records, and death records, for the purposes of providing funding for governmental oversight and for the coordination of domestic violence prevention, intervention, and prosecution efforts in the county.

**Status:** Sent to the governor for signature or veto.

**LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 2018** (Judy Chu, D-Monterey Park)

**Purpose:** To provide that in a divorce case, if there is a judgment for civil damages for an act of domestic violence perpetrated by one spouse against the other spouse the court may enforce that judgment against the abusive spouse's share of community property.

**Status:** Sent to the governor for signature or veto.

**LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 2148** (Manny Diaz, D-San Jose)

**Purpose:** To allow a court to require parties to a child custody, visitation, and child-support proceedings to pay attorney's fees and court costs. This would allow the court to order one party to pay the other party's costs when the other party cannot afford them; would allow the court to issue a temporary order on child custody, visitation, and child support while the case is being litigated; and would allow the court to order spousal support, if the parties are married, during litigation of a domestic abuse case.

**Status:** Sent to the governor for signature or veto.

**LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 2317** (Jenny Oropeza, D-Carson)

**Purpose:** To increase the penalty for employers who pay women less for doing the same work as men.

**Status:** Sent to the governor for signature or veto. **LLP Position:** Support.

**AB 2742** (Dennis Mountjoy, R-Monrovia)

**Purpose:** To require that state prisons give prisoners the medical care that competent physicians say they need.

**Status:** Sent to the governor for signature or veto.

**LLP Position:** Support.

*Continued on page 10*



# Domestic Partner Insurance Coverage Now the Law

## Governor Signs AB 2208

By Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist

In late September, Governor Schwarzenegger signed AB 2208. This bill was introduced in the state Legislature by Assemblymember Christine Kehoe (D-San Diego) and was sponsored by Equality California and vigorously supported by the Lambda Letters Project. Members and friends of LLP delivered over 21,300 letters and e-mail messages to elected officials in support of the bill.

AB 2208 becomes effective on January 1, 2005. It requires that, for all products regulated by the California Department of Insurance, insurance coverage must be offered to the registered domestic partners of insureds under the same terms and conditions that it is offered to the spouses of insureds. If coverage is offered to spouses, it cannot be denied to domestic partners. If family premium discounts are offered on policies that cover a husband and wife, the same family discount must be offered to registered domestic partners covered under the same policy.

These rules apply to health insurance, long-term care insurance (except long-term care insurance issued by CalPERS), auto insurance, and liability insurance. The combined savings on these types of insurance could well exceed \$1,000 per year. Domestic partners who found themselves unable to obtain affordable insurance may now be able to find affordable coverage that covers them both.

People who have registered with the State of California as domestic

## Legislative Update

Continued from page 9

**SB 1385** (John Burton, D-San Francisco)

**Purpose:** To make numerous changes and improvements to laws concerning intimate partner battering.

**Status:** Sent to the governor for signature or veto.

**LLP Position:** Support.

**SB 1441** (Sheila Kuehl, D-Los Angeles)

**Purpose:** To provide that a victim of domestic violence or abuse has the right to have a domestic violence counselor and a support person of his or her choosing present at any interview by law enforcement authorities, district attorneys, or defense attorneys.

**Status:** Approved by the Legislature. Signed by the governor.

**LLP Position:** Support.

**SB 1590** (Joe Dunn, D-Garden Grove)

**Purpose:** To shield government records of employees, volunteers, board members, owners, partners, officers, or contractors of a reproductive health services facility upon request of those persons.

**Status:** Sent to the governor for signature or veto.

**LLP Position:** Support. This would prevent abortion foes from getting addresses and phone numbers of these people through the Freedom of Information act and then harassing people who work at abortion clinics. ✉



partners may be well advised to consult with their insurance agents to determine what new coverage, or what premium discounts, may be available to them. ✉

## Vote for Proposition 72

Continued from page 1

80% of the cost of employees' premiums for health insurance. Large companies would also be required to provide health insurance for the family members (including domestic partners) of their employees.

Proposition 72 requires employers with 50 or more workers to pay for health insurance for workers. Businesses with 200 or more employees must also contribute toward family coverage, including coverage for domestic partners.

In order to protect small businesses, the bill does not apply to companies with fewer than 20 employees and exempts companies with 20 to 50 employees unless a tax credit is offered to offset costs. Coverage includes prescription drugs and major medical and preventive care.

Large and medium-sized employers could opt not to provide health insurance for their employees' families as required by SB 2. However, in that case, they would be required to pay a fee to the state. The state would create an insurance pool with those fees and use those funds to pay for health insurance for employees and their families.

"SB 2 is a modest step to protect people from losing the coverage they have, and to extend coverage to another million Californians," said Anthony Wright, Executive Director of Health Access California, the statewide consumer health coalition.

Consumers Union, nonprofit publisher of *Consumer Reports*, states, "After studying Proposition 72, we conclude it is a necessary step forward that protects health coverage for working Californians."

I urge you to vote for Proposition 72 this November. For more information, or to get involved, visit [www.YesOnProp72.com](http://www.YesOnProp72.com). ✉